



THE WEEK IN WASHINGTON.

Minor Matters of Interest in the Capital City.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24.—Official confirmation was received here of the transfer of Baron Von Saurma-Jelisch, German ambassador here, to Constantinople. The fact has been communicated to members of the Diplomatic Corps, who have been calling at the embassy to-day to extend their congratulations. Baron Von Saurma will leave in May. His successor will be Baron Von Thielmann, now German Minister at Munich. Baron Von Thielmann is a remarkable linguist. He has written of his travels in Persia and Asia Minor, and is author of a book entitled "Four Journeys Across America."

MONDAY, MARCH 25.—Capt. Abel W. Fisher, a Principal Examiner of the Board of Examiners of the Pension Bureau, died of paralysis. He was born at Danville, Vt., 61 years ago, and graduated at Dartmouth College in 1858. He served through the war in Co. K, 4th Vt. and received an ugly face wound in the battle of Wilderness. After the war he settled at Raleigh, N. C., and served two years in the State Legislature. He was appointed in the Pension Office June 15, 1871. He had been Chief Clerk under Commissioners Dudley and Ramm. After months of deliberation the Venezuelan Claims Commission concluded its labors, and announced its decision, being a judgment in favor of residents of the United States for \$143,500, about one-third of the amount of the claims. Of the total award the Venezuelan Steam Transportation Company of New York received \$141,500 American gold, with interest, and Capt. Abram G. Post, Jacob J. Maurerius and Davis J. Sturges received each \$300, with interest. The claim of Cornelius J. Bryant, Chief Master of the San Fernando, was the only one disallowed. These claims date back to 1871, when in the course of a revolution in Venezuela three of the vessels of the American corporation were seized by the Venezuelans on either side in the controversy and much damaged by being used in war.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26.—The State Department will immediately inform the Spanish Government that there is no objection to Senor Dupuy de Lome as the successor of Senor Maraura. Senor de Lome was very acceptable when he was in Washington, and not only as Minister, but as Secretary of Legation and Charge d'Affaires. It is not always necessary for a foreign Government to inquire as to the acceptability of a person appointed as Minister to this country, although there is generally an informal inquiry as to whether there is any objection to his selection. Probably in the case of the new Spanish Minister the inquiry will be made for the purpose of ascertaining the acceptability of the new Minister, and the acceptability of the new Minister assured owing to the recent peculiar turn in the diplomatic relations between Spain and the United States. State Department officials speak in the highest terms of Senor de Lome.

The State Department has received a cablegram announcing the death of United States Consul General John C. Gresham at Hilo, Japan, to-day from a paralytic stroke. **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27.**—A strong movement was begun here at a meeting by the Board of Trade looking to the ultimate adoption of a code of civil and criminal laws for the District to supersede the cumbersome system now in vogue. All the prominent lawyers and business men of the town have interested themselves in the project, and the movement is being actively pushed.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28.—The Postoffice Department took its first step toward ending the postal monopoly in the case of the Honduras Lottery Co. An order has been issued to intercept all mail directed to the manager of the Honduras Lottery Co. in Honduras, or to him in care of anybody at Tampa. This person is at the head of the Honduras Lottery, which is another name for the old Louisiana Lottery Co. While not doing as large a business as when their Headquarters were at New Orleans, this lottery company is still taking several million dollars a year out of the pockets of the people of the United States.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29.—Attorney-General Olney, to whom was referred a question of whether foreign postage stamps were admissible for the respective Governments issuing them, has decided that postage stamps come within the meaning of "obligations or other securities," in the act of 1892, which forbids the use of foreign stamps. This ruling is of much importance to stamp collectors, inasmuch as it decides that the printing in stamp albums in the spaces left for the stamps is not a violation of the law, and that the use of stamps is not a violation of the law.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30.—The Postoffice Department took its first step toward ending the postal monopoly in the case of the Honduras Lottery Co. An order has been issued to intercept all mail directed to the manager of the Honduras Lottery Co. in Honduras, or to him in care of anybody at Tampa. This person is at the head of the Honduras Lottery, which is another name for the old Louisiana Lottery Co. While not doing as large a business as when their Headquarters were at New Orleans, this lottery company is still taking several million dollars a year out of the pockets of the people of the United States.

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from a snake to a hyena. The faithful stopped their subscriptions to his paper, and Quigg does not appear any more than he can help in neighborhoods where the hungry office-seeker holds forth."

Dr. Joel D. Hubbard, who beat Bland for Congress, is represented as an itinerant doctor, a "horse doctor" and a peddler of patent medicine. He was born in 1830, graduated in medicine in 1853. He gave up medicine to go to railroading, and, as his biographer says, "retired after a time to the practice of medicine, and succeeded admirably. Among the Missouri delegation he is known as having served through two or three terms as County Clerk, and as having been the President of the Morgan County Bank, and at present being the editor of the Statesman. His election to Congress was no less a surprise to him than to anyone else. He took the nomination to fill out the ticket, all other prominent Republicans having declined to make the "hopeless" race against Bland.

There is a story now afloat about Senator Palmer. It was in the early days of the war, while the Illinois was forbidding the bringing of a slave into the State, and making a negro incompetent to testify in a court of justice, were still in force. Gen. Palmer had come home from the front, wounded, bringing with him a negro nurse. His political enemies took offense at this, and the General was arrested on a charge of bringing a slave into the State, or something of the sort. There was a trial. The accused defended himself. He heard the testimony against him, and then he arose and said: "May it please the court, there is only one person on earth whose evidence might prove this charge, and that is pointing to the negro—he is by the law of the State not a competent witness. I rest my case." And the case was dismissed.

Secretary Lamont has awarded a medal of honor to Capt. J. C. Gresham, of the 7th Cav., for distinguished gallantry at Wounded Knee, S. D., in December, 1890. In this engagement Capt. Gresham voluntarily led a party into a ravine and dislodged a band of Indians.

The case of "Rickett" Dan Benton, alleged to be William Newby of an Illinois regiment, who had been thought killed and buried at Shiloh, was decided adversely and finally in the Supreme Court of the United States last week in the denial of an appeal on motion for a new trial. The trial, it will be remembered, in the Southern District of Illinois was very exciting. The proceedings occupied 11 days. The defense brought a whole train load of people to testify in the claimant's behalf, including a liberal sprinkling of the population of White County, in which Carmi is located. All of them were ready to swear that the defendant was Newby and nobody else. The defense used 200 witnesses; the Government about 60. There was almost a riot in and about the court room. Attempts were made to intimidate the jurors. Nevertheless, the claimant was found guilty of perjury and of making a false claim for pension.

It looks now as if Gen. Robert Lowry is the Democrat who will develop the greatest strength as successor to Senator George in Mississippi. He served two terms as Governor. He was in the rebel army.

Senator Allison, of Iowa, might be called Allison Strong, from the massive head presented and the sturdy and powerful frame carried with solid strength about the Senate floor. He was last session seldom seen joining any of the little knots of Senators who frequently gather about the rear of the floor, chattering and laughing over some cartoon or caricature in the papers; nor is he often found on the "other side of the chamber" conferring with his Democratic colleagues. His long coat hangs loosely and comfortably on his shoulders, which are square and powerful, but as he walks the casual observer notices that his toes turn slightly inward.

Senator Hansbrough, of North Dakota, is a candidate for re-election. His friends estimate that he has made an excellent office, and been a good party man, and ought to be sent back. Opposed to him is Congressman Johnson, who not only wants the office, but would be pleased to play even with the Hansbrough men for laying him out in the manner he did four years ago. Among the lesser lights are ex-Senator L. R. Casey, Col. Robinson, Chairman of the State Central Committee; Lieut.-Gov. Worst, State Senator Vets, of Grand Forks; C. E. Gregory, of Ward; Henry F. Miller, of Cass, and Joe M. Devine, of La Moore. Then, too, there is ex-Gov. John Miller.

As between the Hansbrough and Johnson forces it is hard to tell at the present time which is the stronger. The former will endeavor to secure the nomination of Col. Robinson as Representative, while a Maj. Edwards is the choice of the Johnson people.

The collection and sale of Government publications at the close of every session of Congress has grown to be a business of considerable magnitude, with large profits for those engaged in it. Considering that these publications are intended to be distributed freely by Congressmen to such of their constituents as yearn for the character of information furnished by the Government, this statement may be considered strange. It is nevertheless true, and nearly every book or pamphlet issued by the Government can be purchased in Washington from the men who deal in this form of literature. They are obtained by the dealers from the Congressmen themselves or from some clerk or friend to whom they have been presented. Every Congress authorizes the publication of thousands of volumes, most of which are of no more use to the average member of the House than many blocks of wood would be. As long, however, as the members of the House vote themselves books for which they have no possible use it is likely to continue. The only manner of remedying the evil would seem to be to have all publications intended for distribution among the people handled by the Executive Departments that prepare them. The special report issued by the Department of Agriculture upon horses, which has become known as "The Horse Book," among members of Congress, commands a high price in the book market. It has been sold for \$5 a volume in the book-stores of Chicago and other cities.

There have been rumors afloat to the effect that serious splits are likely to occur in the preservation of the rank over the occupation of the next Speaker's chair, and that Mr. Reed will meet with fierce opposition in the House. So far, however, there is really no tangible reason for the report. During the last two weeks of Congress there were hundreds of new members in the city, and the general sentiment among them was that Mr. Reed would be chosen Speaker without opposition.

A Charming Entertainment Last Week.

The entertainment by Enchantment No. 609, Union Veteran Legion, of this city, last week, was a great success, and all of its undertakings. National Commander Gen. James Tanner—"the Corporal"—who is also Colonel of the Enchantment, welcomed the large audience of ladies, gentlemen, and gentlemen cheerily, and called the first number on the program, a piano solo, by Master Irwin Kirkwood, which was roundly applauded. Miss Sheppard sang "Fighting to-night on the old Camp Ground," and Mr. Charles H. Gresham, George C. Round, of Manassas, Va., read a very interesting monograph, in which he described the method of army signaling, and told how the signal corps of the United States, N. C. Gen. Sherman directed him to establish a signal station on the dome of the Capitol, and spoke of the perils of the ascent, and how eventually he was when he was walking around the globe, and he described the sending skyward of beautiful rockets the night they heard of Lee's surrender. One rocket representing a letter of "peace and good-will" was sent up, and the signal corps, which he had excelled in, and reminded the veterans who were there of those days of sacrifice and toil that the Union should live forever.

Miss Pauline Evans—sweet 16—then recited "My Sister's Room." The sister remained upstairs when he came and sent Pauline down to entertain him, which she did so realistically that the audience was in a state of suspense, and would have sent her on such a mission again. She demonstrated her ability as a lover upon Corp. Tanner in such a winning manner that the eyes of every other veteran present were green with envy.

Comrade Joseph Murray, of Colorado, then of the 63d N. Y., of Meagher's Brigade, First Division, Second Corps, Army of Potomac, spoke eloquently of his experiences as a soldier of his glorious adopted country and in the West since. He made the boys enthusiastic.

Rev. Dr. Rogers, of the Church of Our Father, spoke of the history of the Union, and of the war and the veterans since, and closed by an eloquent appeal for the Enchantment to attend his church with full ranks the Sunday before Memorial Day, which will be accepted.

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